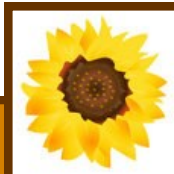


# Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge

Volunteer Newsletter

September 2015



## What's New?

Bear River welcomes two new fire personnel stationed at the Refuge, Erik Haberstick and Josh Haen. Erik has worked with USFS, BLM, and now FWS. He is the Zone Assistant Fire Management Officer. He lives in Logan with his wife and daughter. Recently, Erik (not pictured) was on the Couer d' Alene fire in Idaho with air attack, and is currently on a fire in Washington as Task Force Leader.

Josh is from Wisconsin and graduated with a degree in Forestry. He is a huge Packers fan, (Go Cheeseheads!) and has a new position as Engine Captain/Fire Technician. Josh recently took the Bear River engine on the Tepee Springs fire in Idaho, taking Doug (maintenance) and Andrea (visitor services) with him. Josh, and other staff are on call for fire. We are excited to add them to the Bear River staff!



Josh



Doug, Andrea, Josh



## Bienvenidos, Benvenuto, ようこそ, and 환영합니다

Our newest volunteer is Colleen Castillo from Brigham City, Utah! She comes from a dynamic background, teaching international students English. She has traveled to 29 different countries, lived in Mexico, Guatemala, Japan and Korea. She speaks Spanish, Italian, Japanese, Korean and of course, English! She obtained her BS and MS from Utah State University and earned her PhD in linguistics, while in Mexico. Colleen manages the desk Thursday mornings and the bookstore Thursday afternoons. She is an exciting volunteer to talk to and has many stories. We are privileged to have her as a volunteer on the front desk/bookstore and help translate brochures into Spanish!

## Biology on the Refuge

The fight against phragmites this season has included burning, cattle grazing and spraying. Most notably, the aerial spraying covered 600 acres, a huge accomplishment in one and a half days. Water conditions continue to fluctuate, but staff are working to fill Refuge hunting areas with water in preparation for opening day of waterfowl hunting season, October 3rd!



# Upcoming Events & Volunteer Opportunities



- Sep. 19th: Youth Waterfowl Hunting Day
- Oct. 3rd: Opening Day of Waterfowl Hunt Season
- Oct. 12th: Columbus Day—CLOSED!
- Oct. 13th-19th: National Wildlife Refuge Week
- Oct. 17th: Photo Contest Awards Ceremony Saturday @ 1pm



## **Environmental Education-Great News from Refuge Staff!**

Welcome back to our NOT so new interns. Jen and Alyssa will continue another year at the Refuge as Student Conservation Corps members. Both are excited to resume working with Refuge volunteers and staff. Jen and Alyssa will be out teaching Natural Resource Field Days the last two weeks of September and teaching "Mountain Wilds" at Hardware Ranch through the month of October. If you would like to help with teaching either programs, please contact Alyssa Stegmaier 435-734-6452. Welcome back Jen and Alyssa - Refuge staff are thrilled you are staying for another year— Woo Hoot!

## **Hunting Season:**

Hunting season is just around the corner. On the Refuge we are gearing up for thousands of hunters, who anticipate utilizing the Refuge's resources. Hunt blind reservations should be directed to Andrea Johnson 435-734-6426. Front desk volunteers— be sure to review all the hunting information in the red hunting folder.

## **Creature Feature:Mule Deer**

- Has four-chambered stomachs, which allows them to effectively digest the cellulose in the vegetation they eat.
- They can rotate their ears up to 180°.
- Some biologists believe that a mule deer's sense of smell is up to 1,000 times stronger than a humans.
- They do not run like most other deer. Instead they have a peculiar bouncing leap (stotting) that they do.



## **September Sillies**

1. What did the tree say to autumn?
2. What's a tree's least favorite month?
3. What did one leaf say to another?

1. Leaf me alone 2. Sep-timber! 3. I'm falling for you